

This is one more piece of evidence as to why the American effort to increase our help for access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water is a moral imperative, as well as being critical for global health, security, education, and stable economic development.

Globally, 2.5 billion men, women, and children do not have access to adequate sanitation. This means that there are more people on Earth with a cell phone than with a toilet. Countries where open defecation is more prevalent also have the highest numbers of deaths for children under five, high levels of undernutrition and poverty, and huge disparities between rich and poor.

The lack of adequate sanitation is a huge drag on economies at a national level. The total global economic losses associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation are estimated to be \$260 billion annually.

According to the World Bank for India alone, inadequate sanitation costs the country the equivalent of 6.4 percent of their gross domestic product, over \$50 billion a year.

Not only do women have to plan their day around performing this most basic bodily function, they are also most likely to be the family members tasked with collecting drinking water—often dirty and polluted—for their families.

In fact, in just one day, it is estimated that more than 152 million hours of women and girls' time is consumed for another most basic of human need—collecting water, often from distant, polluted sources. This is time not spent working on income-generating jobs, caring for family members, or securing an education. The average distance for many of these women and girls is 10 miles a day.

Like a woman's search for a safe place to relieve herself, the search for drinking water, particularly when they must walk alone before or after daylight hours, leaves her vulnerable to rape and other violent attacks.

The most acutely impacted, however, are children. Over 1,400 children die every day from diarrhea caused from dirty water and poor sanitation. The lack of access to safe drinking water means a child dies needlessly every minute.

These are heartbreaking stories and jarring facts, but there are solutions. That is why I am hopeful we will be able to work with our friends on the House Foreign Affairs Committee to move the bipartisan bill that I am working with Judge POE, Water for the World Act, H.R. 2901, to make American efforts more effective to deal with preventing the needless loss of a child's life every minute and the threat to young women and girls.

If we needed more evidence, consider the lynching of these two teenage rape victims in India. How could we not do all we can?

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, SHANNON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 19 years, I was unable to wake up and wish my wife, Shannon, a happy anniversary in person; so, Mr. Speaker, I stand here on the floor of the House today to do just that.

Shannon, you are not only my best friend, my rock, and my biggest supporter, you are the reason why I have this privilege of standing here in this great institution to serve the 13th District of Illinois. It is what you have shown us as not only a nurse, a mother, and as my best friend, it is a strength that only comes from being you.

Fifteen years ago, you stared at a battlefield of colon cancer in front of you. You stared down that battlefield, and you beat it.

What you may not know is that strength that you showed at that time is a strength that is an inspiration to not only me, but to our three children and to so many of us that know you.

Shannon, today, on our 19th anniversary, I stand here today to wish you the happiest of happy anniversaries, and I hope to be home soon this weekend to celebrate in person with you.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't say, "I love you, Shannon," before I yielded back.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You once again that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Send Your spirit of wisdom as they face this day with difficult decisions to be made, determining among competing interests to appropriate funds for the programs required to serve the needs of our Nation. Might they work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress, and all who work for the people's House, in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great re-

sponsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CHU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OPERATION CHOKE POINT

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, one of the most abusive government overreaches in our Nation's history is happening right now under our watch. Operation Choke Point began quietly last year as a way for President Obama and the Justice Department to intimidate and strangle businesses they no longer support.

By forcing banks to cut ties with law-abiding businesses like sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers, and thousands of others, these business owners have no recourse.

Once again, President Obama is circumventing the legal and legislative process that was set in place to protect the free market, personal choice, and individual freedom. When did it become okay for the Federal Government of the United States of America to tell business owners that their business is no longer wanted in America? That is socialism in its purest form.

Owning the banks and owning the market is the goal of this administration, and I urge my colleagues in Congress, as well as anyone who has ever owned or dreamed about owning their own business, to end the abuse. Operation Choke Point is an affront to the freedoms and liberty that millions of Americans have died to protect.

In God we trust.